

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
HA:MBOVA (INFO)
H:CCCUTTER (INFO)
ARA: GLISTER (INFO)

-----069262 161049Z /11

R 152204Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: FILARTIGA CASE
REF: STATE 294990 AND 292996

1. PROFESSOR RICHARD WHITE ADVISED US THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
A CODED TELEPHONE MESSAGE FROM DR. FILARTIGA WHICH
INDICATED THAT FILARTIGA HAD RETURNED TO ASUNCION WITHOUT
PROBLEMS. FOR THE RECORD, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT.

2. DESK OFFICER GRAHAM MET WITH SENATOR CHURCH'S STAFFER,
PETER FENN, ON DECEMBER 14 AT FENN'S REQUEST TO DISCUSS
THE JOELITO FILARTIGA CASE. THE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF
THIS CASE, AS CONTAINED IN ASUNCION 713 OF 2/18/77,
TOGETHER WITH INFORMATION REPORTED BY OFFICIAL-INFORMALS
UP TO MID-MAY 1977, WAS DRAWN ON IN BRIEFING FENN.

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3. DURING THE BRIEFING, FENN ASKED SEVERAL SPECIFIC
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FILARTIGA ARTICLE WRITTEN BY PROFESSOR
WHITE AND INSERTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD TWICE
IN FEBRUARY 1977 (STATE 34542). HE ASKED IF, IN FACT,
DR. FILARTIGA HAD BEEN IMPRISONED THREE TIMES BY THE
GOP. IF SO, WHEN AND FOR WHAT REASONS? REGARDING THE

TAPE RECORDING OF THE ALLEGED TORTURE OF JOELITO, FENN ASKED WHAT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE THAT THE TAPE EXISTS. REGARDING THE PRINCIPAL WITNESS, ROSARIO, HAS HER DISAPPEARANCE EVER BEEN SOLVED? FENN WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANY INDICATION THAT THE POLICE INSPECTOR, AMERICO PENA, OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM PASTOR CORONEL AND INTERIOR MINISTER MONTENARO BEFORE BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE FILARTIGA INCIDENT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE QUESTION TO ANSWER.

4. FENN STATED THAT SENATOR CHURCH WOULD BE MOST CAUTIOUS ABOUT WRITING A LETTER OF CONCERN ABOUT THE PARAGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO THE FILARTIGA CASE. THE LETTER, WHICH FENN WILL DRAFT, WILL EXPRESS CONCERN THAT FILARTIGA NOT BE HARASSED FOR HIS CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF HIS MURDERED SON, AND REQUEST THAT THE GOP THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT AND PUNISH ANYONE FOUND TO BE GUILTY OF THE OF THE MURDER.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FILARTIGA CASE HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, THE RENEWED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND THE FORTHCOMING JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ON THE CASE, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY REVIEW THE CASE WITH THE SOURCES PREVIOUSLY CONSULTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER NEW INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE. IS IT NOW THE EMBASSY OPINION THAT THIS IS A VALID HUMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTS CASE?

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, PA, (FILARTIGA, JOELITO)
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